

10 Panoramic Way  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
April 10, 1999

99 27 '99 APR 22 110:17

Lyle D. Jaffe  
Dockets Management  
FDA/DHHA  
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: docket 98P-0203/CP

Dear Lyle Jaffe:

I am writing to urge the USDA to urge that forced molting of layer hens be banned . I read with alarm an account of this practice by factory farmers. It is my understanding that the farmers withdraw food and water from the hens for two weeks or more. They further may keep the hens in complete darkness for many days.

Research has shown that forced molting is a major cause of salmonella poisoning in eggs. The stressful conditions weaken the birds' immune systems so badly that they become prone to disease, bone breakage and salmonella infections.

Great Britain banned forced molting more than a decade ago. Most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours yet here in North America as I write this letter more than 6 million hens are being force molted.

Again, I urge the USDA to outlaw this cruel practice.

Sincerely,

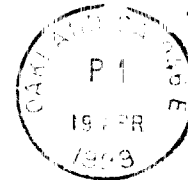
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